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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,261	07/13/2001	John MacAlister	1965-1-3	4870
7590 02/07/2005			EXAMINER	
John MacAlister The MacAlister Consultancy Clockhouse One Rookery Park, Yoxford Suffolk, GBN 1P17 3HQ UNITED KINGDOM			AHMAD, NASSER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1772	
			DATE MAILED: 02/07/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,261

Applicant(s)

MACALISTER ET AL.

Examiner

Nasser Ahmad

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 24-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 22, 2004 has been entered.

Rejections Maintained

2. Claims 24-29 rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Su for reasons of record in the last Office Action, paragraph-7, of May 18, 2004.
3. Claims 1-10, 13-17, 19, 24-29 and 31-41 rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Su For reasons of record in the last Office Action, paragraph-9.
4. Claims 11-12, 18 and 30 rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Su in view of GB: 1,005,155 for reasons of record in the last Office Action, paragraph-10.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed November 22, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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Applicant argues that Su does not teach, as in the present application, a mount which is adhered to sheet material much larger than itself. This is not found to be convincing because Su's mount assembly has the same structure as being claimed in the instant application. As for the mount assembly of Su being adhered to sheet material larger than itself, applicant has failed to show, with evidentiary support, that Su's mount will not function as such.

Applicant argues that Su uses the term "assembly" and not a "mount" as claimed. This is not deemed to be persuasive because the use of different terminology does not render the structure distinct.

Applicant also argues that Su does not refer to "...capable of adhering the mount only to a part of one surface" and that "capable of" is in fact a limited statement with regards to the size of the mount in relation with the sheet to which it is being adhered. These are not found to be convincing because the phrase "capable of..." is directed to an intended use of the product and is not found to be of positive limitation. It only requires the ability to so perform and hence, does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ138. Regarding the size being big, applicant should note that said "big" size nor that the plate assembly of Su "must be at least as large as the sheet it fixes" could not be located in the patent as alleged. The various description of the plate assembly in Su is directed to exemplary embodiments. Further, a size being big or small would be an obvious matter of design choice.

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In response to applicant's argument that Su's soft PVC adhered to the hard plate is an additional layer, applicant is informed that the invention as claimed does not preclude the presence of additional layers.

As for the argument that the instant claims are directed to "a single soft plastic material", said limitation could not be located in the claims and cannot be read thereinto for the purpose of avoiding the applied prior art.

Regarding the argument that Su would be unable to provide the mount in a roll form because of the presence of a hard plate, applicant has again failed to provide evidentiary support showing as such. It is noted that Su teaches a hard plate but not one that is stiff or unbendable, as alleged.

Thus, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it remains the examiner's position that the instant claimed invention is anticipated or rendered obvious over the prior art of record discussed above.

Conclusion

6. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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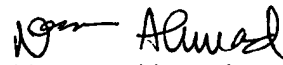
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 571-272-1487. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Nasser Ahmad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

N. Ahmad.
February 2, 2005.